



TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

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Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Minutes of September 8, 2009 Meeting

Chairman, Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. with Commissioners Marian Castell, John Geoghegan, David Polett, Karen Polett, Charles Scribner, and George Walsh present. Minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by D. Polett; second by C. Scribner.

Karen Polett mentioned that she had ordered the wreath and two dozen roses for the 9-11 ceremony to be held this coming Friday at 8:30 A.M. at the 9-11 monument located behind the Middlesex Middle School. Springdale Florist will open early so that Karen and David can pick up these flowers prior to the ceremony on Friday. Notice of this ceremony has been in both Darien newspapers for the past two weeks.

Phil noted that a ceremony will be held at the Darien Veteran's Circle in front of the Darien Town Hall on Veteran's Day, November 11, at 11 A.M. this year. Darien schools are open on Veteran's Day. Karen will ask Springdale florists for a small laurel wreath and a red, a white and a blue flower and a spring of green for the Veteran's Day ceremony. Dave Polett mentioned that Channel 79 could film this ceremony for students to view.

Karen distributed the Report to the Selectmen which she prepared. The Report was approved as written on a motion by J. Geoghegan; second C. Scribner. The Selectmen ask for an annual progress report from each of the Town Commissions in September. Karen will use letterhead paper and take the final report to Phil for his signature prior to giving a copy to the First Selectwoman.

New Business:

CARE is currently using the display case; Marian mentioned that the Darien Community Association has requested use of the case from October- November to commemorate their 86th year. Unanimous approval was given for this use. (John will check with Darien Plate Glass to obtain a bracket for the shelf in this case.)

John also mentioned that Grace is retiring as of October 2. We want to give an appropriate gift or take part in the retirement celebration if there is one. Phil will keep us updated on developments.

Phil would like to open a Facebook page for the Commission, but needs to locate someone able to do this for us.

Karen distributed the DAR WAA letter requesting donations of \$15.00 per wreath for the Darien Veterans' Cemetery. The Wreath caravan will stop over in Darien again this year according to Dave Polett. The VFW plans to again host a dinner on Wednesday night December 9, with contributions from the Masonic Lodges in New Canaan and Darien. Phil, Dave and Karen plan to meet with the

Supt. of Schools after the 9-11 ceremony to discuss student involvement in a WAA ceremony perhaps at the DHS flagpole. Wreaths will be placed on the Spring Grove Veteran's gravesites at noon on Saturday, December 12.

John suggested that a discussion be opened with members of the Purple Heart Organization about turning their monument at the Darien Town Hall Veterans' Circle around so that it looks like it joins the other monuments. This is a sensitive issue and all agreed that we must tread lightly.

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission members whose terms are expiring should soon be contacted and interviewed by the RTC according to John.

Karen Polett
Phil Kraft mentioned that *Michelle* Lauren DeSoiza, a DHS senior and a member of the Civil Air Patrol would be a good choice as a Memorial Day speaker for 2010. Everyone agreed that this would be an interesting change and agreed unanimously to ask her.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M. on a motion by G. Walsh; second C. Scribner.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

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Secretary